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Northwest Georgia News and Notes

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From left: Judy White of the awards committee, Palatini, Cathy Hope of the awards committee and Becky Hamilton, Milner Award executive director.

Atlanta-Fulton County news and notes

The Atlanta-Fulton Public Library presented Margie Palatini with its 26th annual Milner Award. The winner is chosen by Fulton County and city of Atlanta elementary schoolchildren, who vote each year for their favorite living author and then get an opportunity to meet the winner in person. The award was created in 1982 by the Friends of the Atlanta-Fulton Public Library System using a gift from Vera Milner, a former Atlanta schoolteacher. A ceremony was held Nov. 13 at the system's central library. »»

Cobb County Library news and notes

Mark Malkoff has been featured on the "Today" show, "Good Morning America," CNN, Fox News, ABC News and "The Tonight Show." The comedian and filmmaker, known for his humorous real-world experiments — like visiting 171 Starbucks in one day, living in an Ikea for a month or living on Airtran for 30 days — stopped to visit the Cobb County Public Library System in Marietta on Oct. 14. Malkoff is traveling cross-country for four weeks with the goal of convincing 100 mayors to give him a key



Malkoff receives a bookmark from Poyer. (Photo: Erika Ruthman/CCPLS)

to their cities. He visited the Cobb library to check his e-mail. Although the CCPLS Director Helen Poyer (right) opted out of giving Malkoff any library keys, she presented Malkoff with a special-edition Georgia brass bookmark to commemorate his visit. »»

Flint River Regional news and notes

Daniel Ceabron Williams, M.L., has been promoted to head of information technology services at the Flint River Regional Library System in Griffin. He has been employed with the library system since 2001. »»

Kinchafoonee Regional news and notes

The Kinchafoonee Regional Library board has selected Jean Turn to be the Dawson-based system's new director. She will replace Norris Wootton, who has retired. Turn most recently served as librarian at the Clay County Library in Fort Gaines. She holds a master's degree in information studies and library science from Florida State University. The Kinchafoonee Regional Library serves citizens in Calhoun, Clay, Quitman, Randolph, Terrell and Webster counties. »»



Turn

Northwest Georgia news and notes

A new rose garden presented to the Dalton-Whitfield Public Library is the focal point of the entrance to the headquarters of the Northwest Georgia Regional Library.

Library advocate JoAnn Williams, wife of state Rep. Roger Williams, and members of the Four Seasons Garden Club of Dalton presented the library with nearly two dozen Knock Out Roses with the intention that they would provide a welcoming splash of color for patrons arriving at the library. The roses were selected for their striking appearance, ease of maintenance and length of bloom.



Forsee (right) and garden club members at the dedication.

Joining the garden club in establishing the garden were landscape firm Starrscapes Solutions and the 44th Georgia Volunteer Infantry North-South Skirmish Association. During the dedication ceremony held in late August,

Library Director Joe Forsee commented that this project highlighted the importance of how good things happen when people work together. The project, the brainchild of the garden club, grew out of concern of club members of the importance of supporting the public library. Early in 2009, Mrs. Williams spearheaded an effort to increase local funding of the library. Forsee credits her and other library advocates with securing an increase in local funding during a period of economic downturn. Forsee presented Beautification Awards to Four Seasons, the 44th Georgia Volunteer Infantry, and to Starrscapes. ▶▶

Sara Hightower news and notes

“Be Green,” an environmental awareness show hosted by Susan Cooley, director of the Sara Hightower Regional Library System, and Mary Hardin Thornton, director of Keep Rome Floyd Beautiful, received a 2009 Urban Forestry Award from the Georgia Urban Forest Council. The award was presented at the organization’s annual conference in Stockbridge on Nov. 5. The Rome-Floyd County Library is the only library in the state to include a full television studio and to offer its own five-and-a-half-hour slate of prime-time, public-access programming through the local cable television system’s Public Education and Government Channel, Channel 4. ▶▶



Keith Mickler, Floyd County extension agent; Cooley; and Thornton.

Southwest Georgia news and notes

On Oct. 27, the Bainbridge Subregional Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped supervisor Kathy Hutchins presented their first digital player to World War II veteran and Purple Heart recipient Kenneth Smith. The new digital players offer many advantages over the old tape players. They are smaller in size, have a



Hutchins and Smith

longer battery life and have a bookmark function. As only a small number of the machines are currently available, the Library of Congress, which oversees the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped program, designated veterans as the first group to receive the new machines.

Smith was excited to be the first in the area to receive his digital player. “It will get used,” he said exuberantly. “Those talking books, that’s just about my total entertainment. I really enjoy them; they’re great,” Smith explained to Hutchins. The Bainbridge Subregional Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped selected him as the first veteran due to his status of having listened to the most titles. He has listened to over 500 titles since learning about the Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped program at the Southeastern Blind Rehabilitation Center at the Birmingham VA Medical Center in Birmingham, Ala. Smith served in the Navy as a boatswain’s mate from 1942 through 1948.

The Bainbridge Subregional Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped provides resources to qualifying patrons who are legally blind, unable to handle print books due to a physical handicap or certified as having a reading disability. For more information, visit www.swgrl.org/handicap.php. ▶▶

Statesboro Regional news and notes

The Statesboro Regional Public Libraries board has announced that Sharon Rowe will become director of the system on Dec. 1. Rowe, who has more than 20 years of experience as a professional librarian, holds a bachelor’s degree in political science from Valdosta State College and a master’s degree in library and information studies from Florida State University. She most recently served as director of the Marlboro County Library in Bennettsville, S.C. Rowe succeeds Lois Roberts, who has stepped down from the position, but who will continue to serve as public services librarian for the system. “The public service side of library work has always brought me the greatest satisfaction in my career, and I can think of no finer way to conclude my career than to be once again active in that arena,” Roberts said. ▶▶



Rowe



Roberts